(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Strike by Petroleum Employees in Mumbai and Kolkata

3184. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petroleum employees union had observed a series of token strikes from 23rd April to 15th May in Mumbai and Kolkata to protest over the failure of wage negotiations;

(b) if so, what is their charter of demands; and

(c) how far Government have acceded to the demands of the union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Petroleum Employees Union of IBP Company Limited, Mumbai and Kolkata had observed token strikes in Mumbai on 23, 24 and 25th April, 2001 and in Kolkata on 17 to 19th April, 2001.

(b) Demands of Petroleum Employees Union, IBP, Mumbai have been settled through signing of Long Term Settlement (LTS). IBP's Petroleum Employees Union (Eastern Branch), Kolkata had neither submitted any charter of demands nor participated in the negotiations, therefore, no settlements could be arrived with them.

(c) In view of the above, question does not arise.

Construction of Gas Cracker Unit in Assam

3185. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of hurdles that prevent the starting of construction of Gas Cracker Unit in Assam; and

(b) the steps taken to remove those hurdles alongwith the time-frame therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH

GANGWAR): (a) and (b) No hurdle with regard to implementation of the Assam Gas Cracker Project has been reported to the Government. However, the Government of Assam are in the process of acquiring land identified for the project at Lapetkata in Dibrugarh District. Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Limited (RAPL) and Oil India Limited (OIL) have signed a Gas Supply Agreement on October 19, 2000. Also Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGCL) is in the process of finalizing a gas supply agreement with RAPL. To expedite implementation of the project the progress is reviewed periodically.

Water projects

3186. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the large number of water projects are under construction in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of water projects which were under construction upto the end of March, 2001 alongwith the State-wise details thereof;

(c) the total amount spent on the construction of these projects so far alongwith cost over run, if any; and

(d) the estimated amount to be spent for the completion of construction of these water projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) 171 major and 259 medium irrigation projects started during earlier five year plans have spilled over into Ninth plan. The details of these projects are in the enclosed Statements I and II.